



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

23 October 2003

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office

Parks Division

Lands Section

FWP Commissioners

Fisheries Division

Legal Unit

Wildlife Division

Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Bob Raney, 112 S. 6th St., Livingston, MT 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is the decision notice for the Kountz Bridge Fishing Access Site Environmental Assessment, which proposes to construct improvements to the site to better facilitate public access and use on the Jefferson River.

It is my decision to proceed with the proposed project as outlined in Alternative D (Preferred Alternative). This project proposed to relocate the entrance road; build a parking area and cul-de-sac; construct a boat ramp; install a latrine; erect new signs; and, to barrier off the old entrance area.

Questions regarding this decision notice should be directed to me at the below address:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

Or e-mailed to pflowers@montana.edu.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor

Attachment

*Madison
Misc.*

**KOUNTZ BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DECISION NOTICE**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
October 23, 2003**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to construct a boat ramp, parking area, and new entrance road, and to install a vault latrine at the Kountz Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) along the Jefferson River near Whitehall, Montana. This project will be the first development for this site; and, construction will be funded by the Fishing Access Site Capital Account. This project is estimated to cost \$60,000.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) assesses impacts of its proposals to the human and natural environments. The Kountz Bridge FAS improvements and their effects were disclosed in the 1 August 2003 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

Summary of Public Comment

A 30-day comment period was open from 5 August through 5 September 2003. Public notification of the proposed action was facilitated with the distribution of legal notices printed in Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Whitehall Ledger, and Helena Independent Record newspapers. In addition, the EA was posted on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.state.mt.us>.

One public comment was received. The Montana Historical Society (SHPO) stated that there was a cultural review conducted at this site in 1993, and that there is a low likelihood of cultural impacts occurring from the proposed project.

Final Environmental Assessment for the Kountz Bridge FAS Improvement Proposal

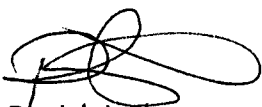
The Draft EA and this Decision Notice will serve as the final document.

Decision

Based on the analysis outlined in the EA, I have determined that the process satisfactorily complies with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The proposed action will not create any significant impacts to the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to implement the proposed action (preferred alternative), and to proceed with the improvements to this site. Construction will begin in the spring of 2004.

Questions regarding this decision notice should be directed to me: Pat Flowers, Region Three Supervisor, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman MT 59718; (406) 994-4042; or pflowers@montana.edu.



Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor